

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides a method and system for enhancing the capability to optimally route VT circuits over SONET networks. The invention discloses a method for identifying
5 Network Elements (NEs) that have VT capability (i.e., VT cross connect capability) and, when desired or required for VT circuit routing, manually or automatically topologically interconnecting these NEs by STS-1 circuits called VT
Tunnels. Once interconnected, these VT Tunnels are suitable
10 for supporting user VT traffic without the network operator being required to upgrade non-VT NE with VT capability or without having to exhaust the limited pool of available VT cross connects on one or more NEs.